From: Smith Eric D Contr ASC/YSXI
To: 'Microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 12/17/01 12:38pm
Subject: Microsoft case

Please insist on another look at the Microsoft case.

Microsoft has consistently used illegal (much of their technology was openly stolen) and unfair tactics (antitrust prctices) to propagate mediocre software. They consistently ignore international software standards so that their software forces users to use MS software for something which should have been done using existing international standards. Worse yet, they force users to upgrade to newer versions of existing MS software (for example, they force the latest version of their browser just to display help pages in a nonstandard HTML format). Perhaps more importantly for the governement, the software they produce is riddled with huge, undocumented security holes. Their web server (IIS) alone has been known to have almost daily security fixes released. Almost all the viruses have beeen aimed at known security vulnerabilities in MS products such as OutLook, Exchange, IIS, etc.

1. The proposed settlement should be tossed.

2. Various agencies of the US government should be ENCOURAGED to use standard "Open Source" software where possible.
-- Occurance of viruses would be reduced to near nonexistant.
-- Using the Apache web server (most popular in the world) would save billions by providing for a more stable and secure web server environment. Almost all web server targeted viruses would be eliminated.
-- Using Open Office, www.openoffice.org (or the slightly enhanced Star Office), instead of MS Office would save hundreds of billions of dollars just in the DoD and would eliminate most of the viruses aimed at MS Office.
-- Using the more stable Linux operating system accross the DoD would save hundreds of billions of dollars in software purchases and licensing. It would also eliminate virtually all major viruses.

3. Please encourage the Justic Dept to enforce antitrust laws.

Thank you for your continued hard work,

- Eric Damon Smith